



America's Greatest Funeral Procession

The obsequies of Abraham Lincoln have gone down in the annals of American history as the most elaborate funeral cortege which ever moved among the people.

The death of Abraham Lincoln occurred at 7:22 on the morning of April 15. The body remained in the house opposite Ford's theater, where the friends of Lincoln had taken him immediately after the fatal shooting, until 9:30 when it was removed to the Executive Mansion.

On April 18, at 12:10 p. m., the Rev. Dr. P. D. Gurley spoke the first formal words of a long series of religious ceremonies extending over a period of fifteen days; and it was the same Dr. Gurley who pronounced the benediction in the closing service at Springfield, Illinois, on May 5.

The funeral procession left the White House for the Capitol at 2:00 on the afternoon of April 18, and the casket containing the remains of the president was placed on the catafalque, where it was to lie in state.

On Friday morning, April 21, at 7:40 the funeral cortege started from the Capitol on its long western itinerary. At 10:00 a. m. the special funeral train on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad left Washington for Baltimore, where the body was viewed by "upward of 10,000 persons."

Shortly after three o'clock the funeral train left Baltimore for Harrisburg, where it arrived at 8:30 Friday evening. Here again the body was viewed by many thousands. With Philadelphia as its next destination the train left Harrisburg at 11:00 the following morning.

Upon reaching Philadelphia at 4:30 p. m. the body of the president was removed to Independence Hall, and placed near the Liberty Bell. Two lines were formed by those who came to view the remains and "by 10 o'clock these lines extended at least three miles." At 4 o'clock the following morning the train bearing the body continued on its journey.

Vast crowds greeted the train when it arrived in Jersey City at 10:00 Monday morning. Here the funeral cortege was transferred to a ferry which conveyed the remains of the president to the city of New York.

On the steps of the city hall were 1000 German singers, who sang a requiem as the body of the president was brought within the edifice where it was to lie in state. Fifty thousand people are said to have marched in the funeral procession from the city hall to the depot.

It is impossible to estimate the number of people who viewed the body of the president in New York City; and at Albany, the next point where the body of the president was viewed, many more thousands of the people of New York state paid their respects to the martyred president.

On Friday, April 28, at 7:00 a. m., the train reached Buffalo, where the body of the president was viewed in St. James Hall all day long, and "where the throng was immense." The funeral train left Buffalo at 10:00 p. m.

Cleveland was reached Friday at 7:00 a. m. Here a building had been erected especially to receive the catafalque. It was so conveniently arranged that "180 people per minute" could see the remains and they continued at that average throughout the day.

On the following morning at 7:30 the cortege reached Columbus. Here the rotunda of the capitol was used in which to erect the catafalque, and by the body of the president for seven hours passed steady streams of people. At 8:00 p. m. the remains were again placed aboard the funeral train.

Indianapolis greeted the cortege at 7:00 a. m. on Sunday. Here, as in Columbus, the state capitol was used as a temporary resting place for the remains. Delegations from many states were assembled here, one delegation being headed by the Governor of Kentucky. All day long a stream of humanity passed by the bier where the president lay.

The funeral train leaving Indianapolis at midnight, arrived in Chicago at 11:00 a. m. on May first, now having covered 15,000 miles since leaving Washington. From 6:00 Monday night until 7:00 Tuesday night thousands of people passed through the Court House to view the body.

About daylight on the morning of May 3 the destination of the procession was reached. Here the body was removed from the train to the state capitol where it was to be viewed by Lincoln's neighbors and friends of many years. For more than twenty-four hours, even through the night, they came to pay tribute to his memory.

At 11:00 a. m. on May 4, the last of the many funeral processions was formed and it was soon proceeding to Oak Ridge Cemetery, where the last rites were said and the body deposited in its temporary resting place in the vault.

In the closing address of the series of eulogies which had been spoken by many prominent men, since the body had left Washington, Bishop Simpson said at this closing service:

"Far more have gazed on the face of the departed than ever looked upon the face of any other departed man."

Note: The above sketch is based on the notes made by one of the members of the group, accompanying the body from Washington to Springfield, Illinois.

Railroads Conveying the Funeral Train

Washington to Baltimore,
Baltimore & Ohio.

Baltimore to Harrisburg,
Northern Central Railway.

Harrisburg to Jersey City,
Pennsylvania Railroad.

Jersey City to New York,
Ferry boat, New York.

New York to Albany,
Hudson River Railroad.

Albany to Cleveland,
New York Central Railroad.

Cleveland to Columbus,
Cleveland, Columbus & Cin-
cinnati Railroad.

Columbus to Indianapolis,
Columbus & Indiana Central
Railroad.

Indianapolis to Chicago,
Lafayette & Indianapolis
Railroad,
Louisville, New Albany &
Chicago,
Michigan Central.

Chicago to Springfield,
Chicago & Alton.

Lincoln's Most Famous
Writings

The Gettysburg Address

The Widow Bixby Letter
(In Facsimile)

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